

Message Text

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15

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 A-01 /020 W

----- 013070

R 261624Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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LAGOS FOR RSO; ABIDJAN FORITSO; ACCRA FOR RCO; MONROVIA FOR AOO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJ: REORGANIZATION OF CHANCERY OFFICE SPACE, COTONOU

REF A. STATE 228164 (NOTAL) B. COTONOU 1340

1. REF A INQUIRED WHAT SECURITY SURVEILLANCE IS BEING PROVIDED FOR CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN CHANCERY. AS REF B INDICATES, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT IS LIMITED TO RENOVATION OF AMB'S OFFICE. THIS INCLUDES REMOVAL OF FOUR PARTITIONING WALLS AND THREE WINDOWS, AND INSTALLATION OF THREE PARTITIONING WALLS AND THREE WINDOWS. EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE FOR THIS PART OF THE PROJECT IS OCT 3. PROJECT IS NOW 80 PERCENT COMPLETE. WHEN CHANCERY IS CLOSED THIS AREA IS SEALED OFF FROM REMAINDER OF BUILDING; SECURITY IS AT LEAST OF SAME STANDARD AS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN.

2. EMBASSY HAD INFORMED RSO LAGOS AND TSO ABIDJAN OF PLANS. WHILE BOTH INDICATED IT PREFERABLE HAVE US COVERAGE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THIS PHASE AS WELL AS COMMUNICATIONS PHASE (WHERE IT IS, OF COURSE, INDISPENSABLE), NEITHER INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR IT IN THIS PHASE. TSO HAS BEEN INFORMED OF COMPLETION DATE AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING

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THAT PRIOR TO OCCUPATION OF REMODELED OFFICE, TECHNICAL SUR-

VEILLANCE BY TSO WILL BE MADE.

3. PRESENT SURVEILLANCE CONSISTS OF PERIODIC VISUAL INSPECTION DAILY BY ADMOFF AND C&R OFFICER, AS WELL AS CONSTANT OBSERVATION BY EMBASSY'S LOCAL RECEPTIONIST WHO CONTROLS ENTRY TO REMAINDER OF CHANCERY THROUGH LOCKED DOOR. IN ADDITION LOCAL EMPLOYEE GUARDS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE NORMAL CHANCERY GUARD FORCE SO THAT ONE IS STATIONED DAY AND NIGHT AT REAR OF CHANCERY WHERE HE CAN VIEW ENTIRE AREA BEING RENOVATED.

4. FYI: ADMOFF DEPARTING FOR SIX WEEKS R&R OCT 8. CONTRACTOR HAS AGREED STOP WORK DURING HIS ABSENCE. AS RESULT, EXPECT COMPLETION OF PHASE B OF PROJECT WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL EARLY TO MID-JAN. WORK WILL BEGIN ON NEW COMCENTER AFTER THAT.
ENGLE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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